

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing an offer for financial protection, in the form of an insurance policy, against an unexpected change in value of an intellectual property asset, comprising:

- (a). obtaining a description of at least one intellectual property asset of a first party;
- (b). determining a value of said at least one intellectual property asset;
- (c). determining a cost of providing compensation for an unexpected change in value of said at least one intellectual property asset; and
- (d). computer-generating an offer to provide compensation for at least a portion of any unexpected change in value of said at least one intellectual property asset to a person with an interest in the first party.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- (e) obtaining a first fee in exchange for offering to provide compensation.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) includes providing an evaluation of said at least one intellectual property asset.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein step (d) includes providing an evaluation of said at least one intellectual property asset.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein steps (a) - (d) are executed by, or on behalf of, an offeror, further comprising:

- (f) accepting the offer to provide compensation,
- step (f) being executed by said person with an interest in the first party.

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6. A method according to claim 5, wherein step (f) includes paying a second fee to the offeror.

7. A method according to claim 2, wherein steps (a) - (e) are executed by, or on behalf of, an offeror, further comprising:

(f) accepting the offer to provide compensation,
step (f) being executed by said person with an interest in the first party.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein step (f) includes paying a second fee to the offeror.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said value includes at least one future value of said at least one intellectual property asset, and said unexpected change in value is determined at the time for which said at least one future value was determined.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said value further includes a current value of said at least one intellectual property asset.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said intellectual property asset includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of patent rights, patent application rights, trademark rights, service mark rights, copyright rights, trade secret rights and trade dress rights.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said person with an interest in the first party includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of an officer of the first party, a director of the first party, a prospective purchaser of said at least one intellectual property asset, an officer of the prospective purchaser, and a director of the prospective purchaser.

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14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said person with an interest in the first party includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of a prospective purchaser of said at least one intellectual property asset, an officer of the prospective purchaser, and a director of the prospective purchaser.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said unexpected change in value is based upon a legal determination of at least one of invalidity and unenforceability of said at least one intellectual property asset.

17. A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) includes analyzing the validity of said at least one intellectual property asset.

19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one intellectual property asset includes at least one patent right.

21. A method according to claim 1, wherein the offer to provide compensation is made to said party with an interest in the first party in connection with transfer of ownership of said at least one intellectual property asset to a second party.

22. A method of providing financial protection, in the form of an insurance policy, against an unexpected reduction in value of a patent right, comprising:

(a). employing a data processing system to assign a value to the patent right while the patent right is owned by a first party;

CB (b). estimating the likelihood of an unexpected reduction in value of the patent right; and

(c). agreeing to provide compensation to a person with an interest in the first party for at least a portion of any unexpected reduction in value of the patent right during a particular period of time after receipt of an insurance premium, the insurance premium being paid in connection with a transfer of ownership of the patent right.

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